

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
July 22, 2008

Members present: Roger Thompson Steve Revell
Allison Lowry Gail Center
Jeffrey Williams Kim Greenwood
Craig Heindel Bernie Chenette
Spencer Harris Rodney Pingree
Lance Phelps Phil Deckert

Others present: John Beauchamp Gary Adams
Scott Stewart Christine Thompson
Alan Bookspan Claude Chevalier

Scheduled meetings:

August 19, 2008	1-4 PM	Room 100 Stanley Hall
September 16, 2008	1-4 PM	Room 107 Stanley Hall

Review of minutes

The draft minutes for the June 27, 2008 meeting were accepted as drafted.

Water Treatment Systems

Continuing education - John Beauchamp said that he has longstanding concerns about the continuing education requirements for Water Quality Association (WQA) membership. He has been able to get credit from some locally offered courses such as the licensed water system operator training. The Green Mountain Water Environment Association has also done some training. John thinks Vermont should offer its own training and solve its own problems. WQA does have a list of training opportunities on its web site. The Vermont Rural Water Association might be a source of training courses. The WQA books are a good source of material for training courses.

Steve Revell said that local resources should be used and wondered if current training is diversified enough. There are lots of topics such as the use of downhole cameras and replacing failed bladder tanks. John noted that he goes to training on chemistry and geology in order to extend his knowledge. John said that manufacturers can provide courses for credit but they are product placement training and design factors need more emphasis.

Craig Heindel asked John if he supports requiring WQA certification in order to design water treatment systems and if there are any other organizations that should be considered. John responded that he is not aware of any equivalent group, however some of the well drilling organizations may provide some training.

Gail Center asked if WQA accepts continuing education credits from other organizations. John said they have been reasonable about giving him credits.

Steve observed that everyone is groping for a basic course and observed that WQA level 1 sounds pretty good. Steve asked if the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) covered water treatment. Jeff Williams replied that NGWA did not and is not inclined at this time to add the topic to their training. Jeff said that NGWA does recognize WQA as providing good information on the topic.

Craig suggested that Vermont might use the WQA training as a topic list and do a RFP for local groups to create and provide training. John said that it might be possible to negotiate with WQA on acceptable training courses and noted that it would be good to have the Water Supply Division personnel trained as well.

Bernie Chenette asked how involved getting the WQA disinfection certification add-on. John said the process is fairly significant as there are many factors that can affect the choice of the treatment process.

Jeff asked if John is a member of WQA. John said that he was and supported the organization. Gary Adams said that he was not a member and while the organization has good information was not sure that membership is necessary in order to design water treatment systems. Jeff suggested that the Vermont well drillers association and the licensed plumbers might be able to add a section on water treatment to their existing training programs.

Gary Bookspan said that he did not get any water treatment system training or testing as part of being a licensed plumber. He does get training in water treatment as a licensed water system operator. Gary would join WQA if required but thinks there is enough talent in Vermont to handle the issue locally. John noted that in order to be certified at level 1 by WQA a person reads the books and takes the test. WQA also offers 4 hour long training courses to help people prepare to take the test.

Claude Chevalier noted that well drillers are now getting plumbing specially licensed that allow them to install pumps and pressure tanks and they will be getting specialty licenses to plumb up water treatment systems. He also needs an electrical certification to hook up the pump. He had to take an 8-hour electrical course even though only 2 hours dealt with pump installations. It seems like a lot of overlap to have to get all of these separate certifications.

Lance Phelps suggested using an educational approach. Roger Thompson asked if Lance was suggesting that water treatment installation be deregulated. Gail asked if there could

be many different ways to become certified. Gary said that there should be some record of the work filed with the state so that people are on notice.

Checklist – Roger asked if the revised checklist that had been e-mailed for review was in improvement over the first draft. Steve said it is better. Lance suggested that nitrate should be listed on the first page and Roger said that a decision is required as to whether the checklist is only for pathogen treatment questions. Alan said that annual water testing should be required. Steve said that the checklist should be made consistent to cover all contaminants of concern.

Other issues - Steve asked if minor repairs include removing the top of a mound and replacing it. Roger said it does not and Steve asked that the regional office staff be informed so they would give a consistent answer.

Scott said the next subcommittee meeting would cover well closure and maintenance of unused wells for future use.

Items prioritized for discussion with high, low, and medium ranking

1. Soil identification vs. perc test **medium**
2. Curtain drain with presumption of effectiveness **high**
3. Revisions to desktop hydro chart **medium**
4. Minimum amount of sand under a mound **high**
5. Grandfathered design flow and conversion of use policy **high**
6. Updating of design flow chart **high**

Executive Committee

John Forcier, Steve Revell, Lance Phelps, Phil Dechert, and Roger Thompson
Alternates – Chris Thompson, Bernie Chenette, Spencer Harris, Jeff Williams

Subcommittees

Hydrogeology - Allison Lowry, Craig Heindel, Dave Cotton and Steve Revell.

Training subcommittee - John Forcier, Roger Thompson, Allison Lowry, Dave Cotton, and Barbara Willis.

Drip Disposal – Roger Thompson, Dave Cotton, Steve Revell, Alan Huizenga

Water treatment systems – Gail Center, Jeff Williams, Rodney Pingree, Dave Cotton, Lance Phelps, and Roger Thompson.